

**Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT)**  
**Summary Notes for Meeting of May 2, 2007**  
Meeting Location: Douglas, Arizona  
Final: May 14, 2007

JAGCT Chair Terry B. Johnson, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. It was noted that this meeting marked the 10-yr anniversary of the Jaguar Conservation Team, which started with the first meeting on April 30, 1997.

A. Opening comments and ground rules

More in depth review of ground rules occurred to assist new participants. Participants were asked to raise their hand to ask a question or state an opinion. Only one person is allowed to speak at a time, and side conversations must be kept to a minimum. This allows each person to be heard and keeps the meeting moving through the agenda. Also, attendees should turn cellular telephones and beepers off or set them to vibrate. In the event of a call, please leave the room before conversing with the caller. Questions may be rotated among participants to facilitate equal participation. Participants were asked to direct questions to the Chairperson or specifically to the current speaker.

Anyone attending today's meeting may comment on any agenda item and all are encouraged to do so.

B. Agenda Review/Additional Discussion Points

Copies of the agenda were provided during the meeting. No additional items were added to the Agenda at this time.

Information regarding jaguar conservation in the Southwest may be obtained on the JAGCT webpage at [http://www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/es/jaguar\\_management.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/es/jaguar_management.shtml). To receive JAGCT's electronically distributed updates on jaguar issues, including public notices of JAGCT meetings, please visit <http://www.azgfd.gov/signup> and subscribe to the newsletter, *Endangered Species Updates*. Email to the JAGCT should be addressed to the Chair ([teebeej@azgfd.gov](mailto:teebeej@azgfd.gov)) or to [jaguar@azgfd.gov](mailto:jaguar@azgfd.gov).

The AGFD web-site (server) has had problems communicating with some servers (mainly AOL), which prevents some folks from being able to sign-up for the newsletter. This is most likely a firewall-type issue with the outside (your) server and not the AGFD server. While AGFD continues to try to work through these problems, we suggest that you try sign-ups through one of the free-mail sites available (e.g. MSN Hotmail, Google Gmail, or something similar).

For today's meeting, the MOU would be followed by introductions and presentations from the Jaguar Science Advisory Group (JAGSAG) present. After the presentations, the MOU will be revisited to include JAGSAG in the discussion. D. Hadley will be moved to the beginning of the presentations because of a conflicting meeting in the afternoon.

C. Jaguar Science Advisory Group

The current JAGSAG includes:

Eric Gese, Utah State University  
Carlos López-González, Universidad Autonoma de Queretaro (Mexico)  
Emil McCain, Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project  
Brian Miller, Wind River Ranch Foundation (New Mexico)  
Howard Quigley, Beringia South (Wyoming)  
Alan Rabinowitz, Wildlife Conservation Society (New York)  
Michael Tewes, Texas A&M University  
Raul Valdez, New Mexico State University

C. Discussion and vote of new signatories to the new AGFD-NMDGF MOU under which the JAGCT is convened

Copies of the MOU, with signatures from AZGFD, NMDGF, and USFWS were provided. To date, we have received letters from the following government agencies wishing to become signatories to the MOU: Luna, Hildalgo, Greenlee, and Cochise counties; New Mexico Department of Agriculture; Arizona State Land Department; and USDA Wildlife Services. Graham County has expressed interest, but has not formally requested participation. **Vote:** Current signatories voted to include entire list as new signatories (vote as follows – 3 accept, 0 objections).

The current MOU states that only two Natural Resource Conservation Districts (Arizona) and Soil & Water Districts (New Mexico) respectively may participate as voting members. For Arizona, Santa Cruz NRCD and Whitewater Draw NRCD are the only two that have requested participation as signatories. **Vote:** Current and newly voted signatories unanimously agreed to include these two groups as signatories (vote as follows – 7 accept, 0 objections). For New Mexico, five S&W Districts have requested participation as signatories (Deming, San Francisco, Hildalgo, Carlsbad, and Grant). Deming and Hildalgo S&W districts have agreed to represent the others (note: The S&W districts may change their representation, if deemed necessary. However, a new vote may be required). **Vote:** Current and newly voted signatories unanimously agreed to include Deming and Hildalgo S&W districts as signatories (vote as follows – 11 accept, 0 objections).

A new signature page will be crafted similar to the previous MOU to include “where as” statement.

There was a question regarding whether a new signatory may be accepted at any time? Yes, but it requires acceptance by the current list of signatories.

A letter was sent by Sierra County, NM regarding participation in the meetings and having a voice in the conservation emphasis area. The letter, however, did not specifically request

participation as a signatory. **Action Item:** A new letter will be drafted seeking participation as a signatory. As such, the group decided to vote on including Sierra County as a signatory to the MOU. **Vote:** Current and newly voted signatories unanimously agreed to include Sierra County as a signatory to the MOU (13 accept, 0 objections).

A USDA Forest Service representative will check with their agency to determine if their participation as signatory is something their agency wishes to pursue.

D. Presentations:

Eric Gese presented information regarding research from the Pantanal area of Brasil. They have attached GPS radio collars to 10 jaguars and 4 mountain lions, including recaptures of all animals to refurbish battery life. GPS collars were set to transmit every 2 hours and data was downloaded every 21 days. Clustered locations were visited on the ground to determine prey. They have documented 436 kills including prey such as caimen, calves and adult cattle, peccary, feral hogs, etc. Individual kill rates varied from 1 every 4 days to 1 every 7 days. They have documented over 12,000 locations from the GPS collars. The jaguars seem to use rivers and canopy cover for travel/kills. Survival appears good with the oldest cat being over 10 years old. The number one cause of mortality to jaguars has been attributed to interactions with other jaguars. Captures were conducted using hounds. No mortalities during captures, and the group always had a qualified veterinarian on site. Capture drug dosages were adjusted from those recommended by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Emil McCain presented information regarding the Jaguar Borderlands Detection Project ([www.borderjag.org](http://www.borderjag.org)). This project is one, if not the, largest camera detection projects in the world. They have more than 30,000 trap nights including more than 17,000 photos. To date, they have documented 2 and possibly 3 jaguars using the borderlands area near Nogales. Based on spot patterns, they have determined that one of the current jaguars is the same animal photographed in 1996. This jaguar continues to be regularly documented in Arizona, and the Borderlands Detection project even has video footage of scent marking, which may suggest stronger territorial evidence in Arizona.

Sue Morse presented information regarding lynx conservation efforts from Maine. Both the lynx in northern Maine and the jaguar in the southwestern U.S. are considered at the fringe of their ranges. Both are cryptic in their habits, very hard to detect, and have been somewhat understudied in these respective regions. Tracking efforts using volunteers has been very beneficial to the lynx effort in Maine.

Diane Hadley and Craig Miller presented information regarding the establishment of a jaguar preserve in northern Mexico (Aros/Bavispe area). In addition to the preserve, the group has implemented an effort for photo documentation that includes paying local participants for photographs of large felids. Diane and Craig also presented a map

identifying potential/suspected jaguar corridors from the preserve area through northern Mexico and into the southwestern U.S.

Ron Thompson briefed the group on jaguar conservation efforts north and east of the Bavispe preserve. Their group (Primero Conservation Outfitters, LLC) was looking at the feasibility of including ecotourism trips focusing on jaguars. This is an endeavor that could generate additional dollars, but it needs the support of the local landowners. A number of government (Mexico) rules that must be followed, including involvement from the local ejidos (ranches). Summary: a flagship jaguar research project is sorely needed in Sonora to generate attention to the area for jaguar ecotourism. Also, the infrastructure (destination facilities, etc.) needs improvement to encourage the ecotourism market.

Sergio Avila briefed the group on Sky Island Alliance efforts in northern Mexico (closer to Nogales). Their project focuses on community involvement and education, as well as, jaguar detection. Their efforts have not documented jaguars to date, but the group has photographed an ocelot within the borderlands area.

E. Task Reports:

1. Update on AZ-NM sightings – Tim Snow (AGFD) and Jim Stuart (NMDGF)

New Mexico – There were no reported sightings in New Mexico.

Arizona – Other than the efforts of the Borderlands Detection Project, no Class I or Class II sightings were reported from Arizona.

Tim provided the updated draft *Ranking Criteria for reported Jaguar Observations*.

**Action Item:** Participants were asked to review the draft criteria and provide comment to Tim Snow ([tsnow@azgfd.gov](mailto:tsnow@azgfd.gov)) or Jim Stuart ([james.stuart@state.nm.us](mailto:james.stuart@state.nm.us)) by June 1.

2. Kill Verification Activities (Section 5.H.2.) – Jack Childs

Jack announced that the Malpai Borderlands Group has made their first compensation payment for a confirmed jaguar depredation in the United States. The depredation of a young calf was found in the vicinity of the Jaguar Borderlands Detection Project area. The grazing permittee/landowner was amenable to the compensation, and has become more interested in the camera detection project and the Jaguar Conservation Team.

3. Coordination with Mexico – Bill Van Pelt (AGFD)

Bill will be attending the Trilateral Committee meetings in May to continue discussions from the jaguar workshops that have been previously reported. The draft manuscript from the workshops should be available by the end of June, with a final document scheduled for the end of the year.

Bill also updated the group regarding a jaguar capture in Mexico. Mexican authorities confiscated a jaguar from a traveling circus near Hermosillo and are still in the process of determining where the jaguar originated. The AGFD was asked to provide a GPS radio collar, thinking that the jaguar might be releasable in Mexico. Unfortunately, the jaguar had all 4 canine teeth broken, meaning that the animal would not be released. The jaguar is currently in the possession of a zoo facility in Hermosillo.

A question was asked about sharing of information regarding potential killing of jaguars in Mexico. Some records are being kept by different Mexican organizations, and some of this information is shared with the AGFD as it becomes available. We must remember that as U.S. government or U.S. state government agency, we are recognized guests of Mexico. We have no authority or will we try to impose authority with our Mexican partners. We will continue to pursue cooperative efforts through our Trilateral Committee efforts, which means fewer attempts through local or statewide (Mexico) contact.

F. Other Business

**Action Item:** Please visit the AGFD's new wolf web-site to see the approach we would like to pursue for a jaguar web-site. If you have any suggestions for improvements or other direction that you would like for the jaguar web-site to take, please send comments to Tom Whetten ([twetten@azgfd.gov](mailto:twetten@azgfd.gov)).

Marking/Collaring update. Duane Shroufe, AGFD Director, has not been briefed on the subject. Therefore, no decision has been made regarding capture or collaring a jaguar in Arizona. Part of the delay was the potential of the confiscated jaguar in Mexico. The Department continues to recognize the age of the current known jaguar in Arizona and the timing risks (warm season) associated with any capture attempt.

A question was asked regarding rotation of the chairperson. Because the MOU is between the two state agencies, both agencies have requested that Terry Johnson remain as chairperson for the JAGCT.

G. Framework

Written comments regarding the Framework must be submitted to Terry Johnson by 5:00 PM on May 6, 2007 to be considered for the final draft. Verbal comments were accepted at today's meeting as follows:

Page 18 – No recommendation to change things. A general comment was made liking the statement of the document being “non-regulatory”.

Page 19 4.3.1.4 *Expansion of priority* – Clarification was provided that in order to expand emphasis area (priority), the signatories would have to agree on the expansion.

Page 20 – No comments

Page 21 – No comments

Page 22 – No comments

Page 23 4.4.4.2 *Technical assistance* – Include list of conservation recommendations. May wish to include list from Defenders of Wildlife, Sky Island Alliance, and Wildlands Project (2005 and 2006 stakeholders workshops).

Page 23 4.4.5.1 – Clarification that the previous agreement contained limits on the size of leg-hold traps. Because this limitation only affects one agency (Wildlife Services), the new framework emphasizes maintaining coordination of trapping efforts, but does not include specific limitations.

Page 24 4.4.5.2 *Penalties* and 4.4.5.3 *Investigation* – These two items should be merged.

Page 25 *Literature Cited* – Clarification that this is not provided in the draft document because of editing purposes. It is too cumbersome to continue to add and delete new literature citations for every draft. It is much easier to modify the list during the final edit.

#### H. Close Meeting

Because of conflicts with Mexican Wolf Scoping Meetings, the JAGCT meeting scheduled for July has been cancelled. The next JAGCT meeting will convene on Thursday, Oct 25, 2007, at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 555 N. Greasewood Road, Tucson, AZ.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:38 PM.

Meeting Attendees

Terry Johnson	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Bill Van Pelt	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Tim Snow	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Jim Stewart	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Don Cameron	Deming (Luna County) Soil and Water District
Roberto Aguilar	Phoenix Zoo
Emil McCain	Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project
Bill Grossi	Bureau of Land Management - AZ
Sue Krentz	Arizona Cattle Growers – Krentz Ranch
Judy Keeler	Coalition of Counties – Self
Jack Barnitz	Bureau of Land Management – NM
Jack Childs	Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project
Anna Mary Childs	Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project
Wendy Glenn	Malpai Ranch
Warner Glenn	Malpai Ranch
Erin Fernandez	US Fish and Wildlife Service – Tucson
Sherry Barrett	US Fish and Wildlife Service – Tucson
Mark Crites	US Fish and Wildlife Service – Tucson
Sergio Avila	Sky Island Alliance
David Hodges	Sky Island Alliance
Diana Hadley	Northern Jaguar Project
Peter Warshall	Northern Jaguar Project